

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – August 27 - 31, 2012  
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

How many schools for the deaf have been founded by deaf persons?

- a) One, the American School for the Deaf
- b) All but one, Clarke School for the Deaf
- c) Twenty-four
- d) Ten

Answer “c” – According to Gannon (1981) in his groundbreaking book, *Deaf Heritage*, 24 schools for the deaf were founded by deaf individuals between 1817 and 1911. [An asterisk indicates the school is no longer in existence.]

The list of schools includes:

- 1817 American School for the Deaf, Laurent Clerc (and two others)
- 1843 Indiana School for the Deaf, William Willard
- 1850 Clarksville (Ark.) School of the Deaf\*, J.W. Woodward
- 1861 Kansas School for the Deaf, Philip A. Emery
- 1868 Arkansas Scholl for the Deaf, Joseph Mount
- 1870 Oregon School for the Deaf, William S. Smith
- 1875 New York School for the Deaf (Rome), Alphonso Johnson (and two others)
- 1875 Chicago Day School for the Deaf, Philip A. Emery
- 1875 Cincinnati (OH) Public School for the Deaf, Robert C. McGregor
- 1878 Gallaudet (MO) School for the Deaf, Delos A. Simpson
- 1879 Beverly (MA) School for the Deaf, William B. Swett
- 1883 Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (Scranton), Rev. Jacob M. Koehler
- 1884 Utah School for the Deaf, Henry C. White
- 1884 Northern New York School for the Deaf\* (Malone), Henry C. Ryder
- 1885 Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Thomas H. Coleman
- 1885 New Mexico School for the Deaf, Lars M. Larson
- 1886 Evansville (IN) School for the Deaf\*, Charles Kerney
- 1888 Eastern Iowa School for the Deaf\*, William D. C. French
- 1890 North Dakota School for the Deaf, Anson R. Spear
- 1892 Cleveland (OH) School for the Deaf, John H. Geary
- 1895 Minneapolis (MN) School for the Deaf\*, Anson R. Spear

1898 Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Long  
1909 Virginia School for the Deaf (Hampton), William C. Ritter  
1911 Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind, Henry C. White

Reference: Gannon, J., 1981, *Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America*, National Association of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Md.

Note that

Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>